AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1   1.   (Currently Amended): A method for creating a supplier rating matrix for rating services
2   of a supplier, the method comprising:
3   ~~defining a plurality of job attributes each including a plurality of sub-attributes, each sub-~~
4   ~~attribute representing a range of job attribute values;~~
5   defining a <u>first</u> job attribute vector, the <u>first</u> job attribute vector including ~~a plurality of~~
6   ~~dimensions each corresponding to~~ a <u>set of</u> sub-attributes, <u>the set of sub-attributes including at</u>
7   <u>least one of a plurality of ranges of tolerance values, a plurality of ranges of quantity values, and</u>
8   <u>a plurality of ranges of times;</u>
9   ~~defining a plurality of performance metrics;~~
10   defining a <u>first</u> performance vector, the <u>first</u> performance vector including ~~a plurality of~~
11   ~~dimensions each corresponding to~~ a <u>set of</u> performance metric<u>s</u>;
12   <u>defining a first supplier rating matrix;</u>
13   <u>defining a first filter constant, wherein the first filter constant is value between 0 and 1;</u>
14   ~~defining a first initial value for the job attribute vector;~~
15   ~~defining a second initial value for the performance vector; and~~
16   ~~generating a supplier rating matrix for the supplier by mathematically combining the job~~
17   ~~attribute vector and the performance vector.~~
18   <u>calculating a first term, the first term being a product of at least the first filter constant,</u>
19   <u>the first performance vector, and the first job attribute vector;</u>
20   <u>calculating a second term, the second term being a product of at least 1- the first filter</u>
21   <u>constant and the first supplier rating matrix;</u>
22   <u>adding the first term to the second term, wherein a second supplier rating matrix is</u>
23   <u>created;</u>
24   <u>calculating a first weighted average from each element of the second supplier rating</u>
25   <u>matrix, wherein the first weighted average is a first supplier rating score.</u>

1   2.   (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~wherein the job attribute vector is a first~~
2   ~~job attribute vector, the performance vector is a first performance vector and the supplier rating~~
3   ~~matrix is a first supplier rating matrix~~ further comprising;
4   ~~receiving data associated with a specific service supplied to a customer of the supplier;~~

5   generating a second performance vector in response to the received data;

6   generating a second job attribute vector in response to the specific service, ~~the second job~~

7   ~~attribute vector indicating which range of job attribute values are associated with the specific~~

8   ~~service;~~

9   defining a <u>second filter constant, wherein the second filter constant is value between 0</u>

10   <u>and 1;</u> ~~weighting factor~~; ~~and~~

11   ~~generating a second supplier rating matrix for the supplier by mathematically combining~~

12   ~~the first supplier rating matrix, the weighting factor, the second job attribute vector and the~~

13   ~~second performance vector.~~

14   <u>calculating a third term, the third term being a product of at least the second filter</u>

15   <u>constant, the second performance vector, and the second job attribute vector;</u>

16   <u>calculating a fourth term, the fourth term being a product of at least 1- the second filter</u>

17   <u>constant and the second supplier rating matrix;</u>

18   <u>adding the third term to the fourth term wherein a third supplier rating matrix is created;</u>

19   <u>calculating a second weighted average from each element of the third supplier rating</u>

20   <u>matrix, wherein the second weighted average is a second supplier rating score.</u>

1   Claim 3-5 (Canceled)

1   6.   (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1<u>, the set of sub-attributes is defined</u> ~~further~~

2   ~~comprising defining the plurality of job attributes and the plurality of sub-attributes~~ using a

3   technical requirements specification of a customer of a supplier.

1   Claim 7-8 (Canceled)

1   9.   (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising defining the plurality~~

2   ~~of performance metrics to~~<u>, wherein the set of performance metrics</u> includes <u>at least one of</u> speed,

3   quality, cost and service.

1   Claim 10-18 (Canceled):

1 19.   (New): An article of manufacture having computer-readable program means for creating

2 a supplier rating matrix for rating services of a supplier, the article comprising:

3   computer-readable program means for defining a first job attribute vector, the first job

4 attribute vector including a set of sub-attributes, the set of sub-attributes including at least one of

5 a plurality of ranges of tolerance values, a plurality of ranges of quantity values, and a plurality

6 of ranges of times;

7   computer-readable program means for defining a first performance vector, the first

8 performance vector including a set of performance metrics;

9   computer-readable program means for defining a first supplier rating matrix;

10   computer-readable program means for defining a first filter constant, wherein the first

11 filter constant is value between 0 and 1;

12   computer-readable program means for calculating a first term, the first term being a

13 product of at least 1- the first filter constant and the first supplier rating matrix;

14   computer-readable program means for calculating a second term, the second term being a

15 product of at least the first filter constant, the first performance vector, and the first job attribute

16 vector;

17   computer-readable program means for adding the first term to the second term, wherein a

18 second supplier rating matrix is created;

19   computer-readable program means for calculating a first weighted average from each

20 element of the second supplier rating matrix, wherein the first weighted average is a first supplier

21 rating score.

1 20.   (New): The article of claim 19 further comprising;

2   computer-readable program means for supplied to a customer of the supplier;

3   computer-readable program means for generating a second performance vector in

4   response to the received data;

5   computer-readable program means for generating a second job attribute vector in

6 response to the specific service;

7   computer-readable program means for defining a second filter constant, wherein the

8 second filter constant is value between 0 and 1;

9   computer-readable program means for calculating a third term, the third term being a

10 product of at least the second filter constant, the second performance vector, and the second job

11 attribute vector;

12   computer-readable program means for calculating a fourth term, the fourth term being a
13   product of at least 1- the second filter constant and the second supplier rating matrix;
14   computer-readable program means for adding the third term to the fourth term wherein a
15   third supplier rating matrix is created;
16   computer-readable program means for calculating a second weighted average from each
17   element of the third supplier rating matrix, wherein the second weighted average is a second
18   supplier rating score.

1   21.   (New): The article of claim 19, wherein the set of sub-attributes is defined using a
2   technical requirements specification of a customer of a supplier.

1   22.   (New): The method of claim 19 wherein the set of performance metrics includes at least
2   one of speed, quality, cost and service.

1   23.   (New): A system for creating a supplier rating matrix for rating services of a supplier,
2   the system including a CPU and a program stored in a computer readable medium configured to
3   execute a set of interface modules, the system comprising:
4   an interface module adapted to define a first job attribute vector, the first job attribute
5   vector including a set of sub-attributes, the set of sub-attributes including at least one of a
6   plurality of ranges of tolerance values, a plurality of ranges of quantity values, and a plurality of
7   ranges of times;
8   an interface module adapted to define a first performance vector, the first performance
9   vector including a set of performance metrics;
10   an interface module adapted to define a first supplier rating matrix;
11   an interface module adapted to define a first filter constant, wherein the first filter
12   constant is value between 0 and 1;
13   an interface module adapted to calculate a first term, the first term being a product of at
14   least 1- the first filter constant and the first supplier rating matrix;
15   an interface module adapted to calculate a second term, the second term being a product
16   of at least the first filter constant, the first performance vector and the first job attribute vector;
17   an interface module adapted to add the first term to the second term, wherein a second
18   supplier rating matrix is created;

19   an interface module adapted to calculate a first weighted average from each element of

20   the second supplier rating matrix, wherein the first weighted average is a first supplier rating

21   score.

1   24.   (New): The system of claim 23 further comprising;

2   an interface module adapted to generate a second performance vector in response to the

3   received data;

4   an interface module adapted to generate a second job attribute vector in response to the

5   specific service;

6   an interface module adapted to define a second filter constant wherein the second filter

7   constant is value between 0 and 1;

8   an interface module adapted to calculate a third term, the third term being a product of

9   the second filter constant, the second performance vector and the second job attribute vector;

10   an interface module adapted to calculate a fourth term, the fourth term being a product of

11 1- the second filter constant and the second supplier rating matrix;

12   an interface module adapted to add the third term to the fourth term wherein a third

13 supplier rating matrix is created;

14   an interface module adapted to calculate a second weighted average from each element of

15 the third supplier rating matrix, wherein the second weighted average is a second supplier rating

16 score.

1   25.   (New): The system of claim 23, wherein the set of sub-attributes is defined using a

2   technical requirements specification of a customer of a supplier.

1   26.   (New): The system of claim 23 wherein the set of performance metrics includes at least

2   one of speed, quality, cost and service.